



County of Los Angeles
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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

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June 21, 2004

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

SB 1343 (Escutia), as amended on May 24, 2004, would require the California Department of Education (CDE) to establish a task force to develop an Infant and Toddler Care Master Plan to focus on the healthy development of children from birth through age three. The task force would be established only after the Department of Finance determines that private donations in an amount sufficient to fully support the activities of the task force are deposited with the State. The bill would specify the contents of the master plan, would require the recommendations resulting from the plan to be completed and submitted to the Governor and the Legislature on or before December 1, 2005, and would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to update the recommendations at least once every 5 years.

The Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable) indicates that our youngest County residents would benefit from a master plan that is specifically tailored to their early care and developmental needs since research shows the dramatic cognitive, physical, social, and emotional growth during the first three years of life. The Roundtable recommends that the County support SB 1343, and we concur. Support for this measure is consistent with existing County policy to "support efforts to develop a master plan for quality early care and education that sets high standards for all early care and education services, and addresses the needs of all children, from birth through age 13." **Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will support SB 1343.**

Each Supervisor
June 21, 2004
Page 2

SB 1343 is jointly sponsored by the Child Care Law Center and the California Resource and Referral Network, and is supported by a host of entities, including: California Federation of Teachers; California National Organization for Women; California Teachers Association; Children's Advocacy Institute; The Little Hoover Commission; and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. It is opposed by the Campaign for California's Families. The bill passed the Senate on May 25, 2004 on a vote of 26 to 11. SB 1343 is set for hearing on June 23, 2004 in the Assembly Education Committee.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:JF:EW:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
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